

RESP

Elphinstone

DUNSDEN VICARAGE,

READING.

Sunday evening
Nov 6. 1887

Dear Madam

I do not know if this
letter will ever reach you, and
should it do so you will find
that I am a total stranger to
you, but I owe you so much
gratitude for your book "Home
Education" that I have long
felt I must some day try to

elp2pneu8

Thank you for it. I heard of the
book through a notice in the
Spectator, and got it early in
this past most beautiful summer-
time. I have read & re-read
it so many times, that much of it
is a possession for life, and I
can most truly say that it has
given me inspiration, strength
of purpose, guidance and courage
which has made a real difference
to me in health. I never

21p3pneu8

remember feeling so light hearted
and joyous as after reading
some of its chapters last
summer holidays - and I cannot
but think it may be a pleasure
to you to know this -

I have 8 children between the
ages of three and thirteen, and
the problems of life & education
are very hard to solve some.

times - we are far away from

8p4pneu8

High Schools, and many modern
advantages ^{are} quite out of our
reach, but your book has made
me feel what can be aimed at
and accomplished in "Home Educa-
tion" - and every hour of the day
I try how near I can come to
your ideal. My little twins of
4½ and each of the others in
turn are "chapters" of it in my
mind.

If this ever reaches you I hope you
will forgive the liberty I have taken.

Yours truly

May L. Hart Davis

exp 1 p neu 8

DUNSDEN VICARAGE,
READING.

Nov 12. (Sunday)
1887.

Dear Madam

I do not know how to
tell you what a pleasure your
most kind reply to my letter
has given me. Your words
make me feel more than
ever how much there is that
we should have in common

изречен

could we ever meet - but you
are far away, and you live, I
am sure, as your Educational
Union proves among many
people deeply in earnest on the
subjects I care most about.

I on the contrary seldom meet
an "answering mind." That is
partly why your book awakes such
a world of thoughts in me, I

8p3pneu8

had struggled alone after all these
things, with few teachers except
those of my childhood. My Father
Sir Thomas Acland with the
Bishop of London first organized
the Oxford Local Examination
movement & he laid the founda-
-tion of almost all I know.
My Mother who is 81 has
read your book & discussed it
with me with deep interest.

izp4pneu8

I think I must send you a
photograph taken quite lately
of our "eight" - & tell you
their names. It has always been
my habit to keep accurate accounts
of my childrens progress, and a
sentence in your book made me
begin a new volume devoted
entirely to "the twins" education.
As you ask to know more about
them I think I will send it
you, and if I send that I

ispsneu8

DUNSDEN VICARAGE,

READING.

think I must send the
earlier volumes also. There are
such numbers of "illustrations" of
your book in it. You will
almost wonder perhaps that I
can send such sacred records,
but they will be perfectly safe
registered, and your book has
given me such an entrance to
your mind that I am certain

is p6pneu8

such a record is most valuable
to you as a study. You can
keep the whole packet two
or three weeks, I shall not want
it. The problem which occupies
my mind most of all now is:-
What are the relative values of
Home and High School Education?
I see the merits of both very
strongly. If we were within

εα7pneu2

easy distance of a high school I should
have no doubt it was the best
education - but we are $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles
from Reading - and the "boarding
out" system I cannot bring my
mind to accept - besides wh. I suppose
the expense ^{for 3 or 4 at once} is far beyond us.

So we go on with a German
Governess whose general influence
is quite excellent, and I try to
supply all she does not possess.

But then I say to myself

exp8pneu8

some times "What if in after life
the girls should desire definite
careers? May they not
then feel totally unequal to
any thing like competition with
others - altogether behind in any
special subject - or will the
general intelligence & width of
mind caused by constant inter-
course & conversation with their
Father & me enable them to
make up for what they other-
wise do not acquire" - I do find

229pneu8

DUNSDEN VICARAGE,
READING.

practically that they are
ahead of other children in receptive-
ness - knowledge of the meanings of
words - power to enter into any
subject, politics, science or literature
which may be talked of before them.
It does not pass them by, they come
to me with numbers of questions to
be answered. But put against this
number of things they are not
achieving which others are, and the
scale is heavy on the other side.

No one governors can give all

id plopneus

one wants. One child with a
special turn for figures is standing
still at induction at 12 years old
for want of higher teaching, another
with a turn for drawing gets no
free hand training for the eye.
Another at 9 years old has not
begun french. Theory of music
history, botany, can only be done
"when mother has time"^x —

Can these things ever be made
up for in after life? For book I

^x and how can I be like a trained teacher)
I feel utterly unequal to it all sometimes,

expensive

see concludes that girls as well as boys
will go to school at 12. I have read
& reread your ^{11th} chapter many
times. I try to hope that we have
many of your essentials, but I
become ^{more} & more alive to the things
we have not - the larger the
family the greater the difficulty
for the mother ^{and father} to supply all they
want - and yet, the greater
when they grow up the absolute
importance that they should

is p12pneu8

each be "fit for something" -

I hope I have not wearied you.

Your kind letter encouraged me to
write on. Do not please think
of replying, at any rate until
you have done with the books.

It is a joy to me to think I
have the privilege of intercourse
with you however rare.

I keep your interesting leaflet. I

have not yet come across anything

like it in this part of the world.

Yours very truly M. L. Hunt Davis

Singh K. L. & B. P. & L. S. 1890

1590

Wadley College,

Cheltenham.



Oct 1. 1890

11.10 PM

Dear Mr. Mason

Thank you for

the paper -

putting in a little more

Leam - and it goes

Early tomorrow

The date fixed for

the meeting here will

never be - Patti

comes in a concert,

And he would - or at
least his wife - will be
here! Will not
Thursday do? You
could come some on
Wednesday, could you
not?

We shall have our
half-ten holiday on
the following Monday,
or you will not see
us Thursday or Friday

day, he will
not come to me for
Wednesday with Saturday -
I may be going away
Wednesday, or if not
on Monday - I shall
have Belcher of Belcham
with me with us, &
some others -

I enclose a notice -
about my papers & to
the same purpose,

isp4pneu8

and he has aggravated
me by making out that
I think all teachers right
opposite wrong - liberty
the passage for me
intent - there
showe perfect and
cheer - a lady who
that they high in
dutie to me by
her created guilt
a sensation - people
sent it her to make
her not to send her
dampness - she suggested
don where his - said

izpspneus

Wythe College,
Chittenango.

P.S. I send you the
article, because I
have marked a few
things in lead, which
I would consent to
have cut out, if
you like - I have
cut out some passages,
but I could not
consent to more.

isp6pneu8

because it would
be of great use to the
but would rather
it were not
interfered at all

isp7pneu8

Will you not
ask Andrew
Robert for his
Church Congress
paper?

89. J. Russell S.
W.C.

267. 1950
100 years
ago

Feb. 19th 91

My dear Miss Mason
Many thanks for
yours, but it's too
provoking altogether
to think we were so
near seeing you &
missed. You wd just
love my baby. She is
so cuddly & sweet,
& plump, & perfectly
good, & bright, so intelligent
& responsive, in fact

as George puts it, "a
delicious little thing!"
I am telling you all this
to show you what you
have missed, & to make
you more careful the
next time you get into
a bus to come & see me.
Baby's name is Laura
Katharine Anna. (the
first & last by request)
She sleeps all night, &
all the morning to my great
joy. so that lessons have

only to be shortened by
one hour on her account
It's so pretty to see the others
with her. George is careful
about her character. "Hope
we shall not sport her
with too much petting."
The shortcoating this week
was a sort of family
festival. Today, alas,
was the vaccination
which both husbands
& I detest, but are afraid
to neglect, till a better
way is found. I am one

of the fortunate mothers -
able to nurse my baby.
I we have some happy
times together through
the day. When I must
sit down & be quiet, & can
indulge in day-dreams
(I think her head is mathe-
matical) & thoughts of my
friends. I think the lessons
go on well. The arithmetic
is a great pleasure to us all
& some friends who took the
girls to Madame Tussauds
were amazed at the living
sort of interest the children
had in the queens &c.

2.

14p5pne18

George learns to read
(in spite of teaching. I
always feel this!) & map
work is a great joy
but I think I have bothered
you enough about my
darlings, big & little.

but as you kindly ask
I can't resist the temp-
tation. just one thing

more. I should be so
much obliged if you
could recommend me
a grammar to teach
them from. Mine

is rusty. & I ^{can't find} can't find
a book to help me that
just suits.

Went the writing for
the Review, thank you
very much for asking
me. & I shall be very
glad to do it. I don't
quite understand
about the shares. but
that's sure to be all
right, thank you.
If you could give me
longer time for the

24 P 7 p 11 8
first article I should
be glad, but if it is needed
at the end of the month
I will set to work at
once. I think I see what
you mean about the
French little plays. But
~~are~~^{is} there to be more than
one in an article? e.g.
is the "visit" to make an
article of itself, or am I
to expatiate first on the
advantages of such plays
& ^{then} give the outlines of
say, half a dozen, all in one

24P8P112028
article? "Shopping, dressing
the baby," "the birthday,"
"the dolls' tea-party," "the walk
in the fields or by the sea,"
would be the sort of subjects
I suppose? I should like
to let my little players
"dress up" in the green
bonnet," &c. This wd be a
pure joy, & certain to make
the game popular!

I have been wanting for
some time to write you
an article on "Nursery
needlework." I have gained

3

24p9pneu8

a good deal of practical
experience by now in
the matter, & ~~found~~^{find}
it so well worth while
to give a good deal of
time and thought to
all the little arrange-
ments & details. The
keeping of work box &
contents in good order.
finishing what has
been begun, thought
for others in making
really useful little presents.

have all been ^{24 pio pneu 8} 20 Educationally helpful. That I thought you might like a little paper on the subject.

With regard to Miss Jakes of course I am only too pleased to do what I can & I have asked her to come next Monday morning & will take her round. & I hope keep her to lunch after.

24 P11 pneu 8

But I must stop my
long letter, & get on with
my baby's bonnet.
Hoping you are feeling
all the better for your
Xmas holidays & Herta
much love

Your affectionate
Frances Epps